

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 28-40, as follows, are pending in this application:

1. -27. (canceled).

1                   28. (previously presented) A method of monitoring data stored on a  
2 primary storage system comprising:

3                   creating a sequence of mirrors-in-the-middle, each mirror-in-the-  
4 middle including a copy of data stored on the primary storage system at a fixed point  
5 in time;

6                   checking a first mirror-in-the-middle of the sequence of mirrors-in-the-  
7 middle to see if a copy of data stored on the first mirror-in-the-middle satisfies at  
8 least one constraint; and

9                   if not, repeating checking previous mirrors-in-the-middle in the  
10 sequence of mirrors-in-the-middle until one of the checked previous mirrors-in-the-  
11 middle includes an uncorrupted copy of data satisfying the at least one constraint.

1                   29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 further  
2 comprising restoring the uncorrupted copy of data to the primary storage system.

1                   30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein checking  
2 comprises scanning for viruses.

1                   31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein checking  
2 comprises monitoring a database for consistency of constraints.

1                   32. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 further  
2 comprising storing the sequence of mirrors-in-the-middle using a data management  
3 appliance.

1                   33. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 further  
2 comprising restoring the copy of data stored on the first mirror-in-the-middle to the  
3 primary storage system if the copy of data stored on the first mirror-in-the-middle  
4 satisfies the at least one constraint.

1                   34. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 further  
2 comprising:

3                   if the copy of data stored on the first mirror-in-the-middle satisfies the  
4 at least one constraint, checking a copy of data stored on at least one additional  
5 mirror-in-the-middle later in the sequence of mirrors-in-the-middle than the first  
6 mirror-in-the-middle to see if the copy of data stored on the at least one additional  
7 mirror-in-the-middle satisfies the at least one constraint.

1                   35. (previously presented) A data management appliance comprising:  
2                   a random-access storage unit storing a sequence of mirrors-in-the-  
3 middle, each mirror-in-the-middle including a copy of data stored on a primary  
4 storage system at a fixed point in time; and

5                   control logic in communication with the random-access storage unit,  
6 the control logic operative to checking a first mirror-in-the-middle of the sequence  
7 of mirrors-in-the-middle to see if a copy of data stored on the first mirror-in-the-  
8 middle satisfies at least one constraint and, if not, repeating checking previous  
9 mirrors-in-the-middle in the sequence of mirrors-in-the-middle until one of the  
10 checked previous mirrors-in-the-middle includes an uncorrupted copy of data  
11 satisfying the at least one constraint.

1                   36. (previously presented) The data management appliance of claim  
2 35 wherein the control logic is further operative to restore the uncorrupted copy of  
3 data to the primary storage system.

1                   37. (previously presented) The data management appliance of claim  
2 35 wherein checking comprises scanning for viruses.

1                   38. (previously presented) The data management appliance of claim  
2 35 wherein checking comprises monitoring a database for consistency of constraints.

1                   39. (previously presented) The data management appliance of claim  
2 35 wherein the control logic is further operative to restore the copy of data stored on  
3 the first mirror-in-the-middle to the primary storage system if the copy of data stored  
4 on the first mirror-in-the-middle satisfies the at least one constraint.

1                   40. (previously presented) The data management appliance of claim  
2 35 wherein the control logic is further operative to check a copy of data stored on at  
3 least one additional mirror-in-the-middle later in the sequence of mirrors-in-the-  
4 middle than the first mirror-in-the-middle to see if the copy of data stored on the at  
5 least one additional mirror-in-the-middle satisfies the at least one constraint if the  
6 copy of data stored on the first mirror-in-the-middle satisfies the at least one  
7 constraint.